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Agenda item 53 (e)
Sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Denise McQuade (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.31

United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010-2020)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 58/211 of 23 December 2003, in which it declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Recalling also its resolution 62/195 of 19 December 2007, in which it decided to declare the decade 2010-2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification, based on the recommendation of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-fourth session,[1]

Recalling further its resolutions 61/202 of 20 December 2006, 62/193 of 19 December 2007 and 63/218 of 19 December 2008 and other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[2]

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3]

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/62/25), annex I, decision 24/14; see also General Assembly resolution 61/185 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[3] See resolution 60/1.

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Deeply concerned about the deteriorating situation of desertification in all regions, particularly in Africa, and its far-reaching implications for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the eradication of poverty and ensuring environmental sustainability,

Responding to the call of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa at its ninth session for the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification,[4]

Taking into account the success of the 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification in raising awareness of desertification, land degradation and drought,

Committed to raising the awareness of desertification, land degradation and drought at all levels consistent with the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018),[5]

1. *Recalls* its decision to declare the decade 2010-2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification;

2. *Designates* the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa as the focal point of the Decade, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other relevant bodies of the United Nations, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat;

3. *Invites* States parties to the Convention, observers and other relevant stakeholders to organize activities to observe the Decade with the aim of raising awareness of the causes of and solutions to ongoing land degradation and desertification in the framework of the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance implementation of the Convention (2008-2018);[5]

4. *Encourages* Member States and multilateral agencies in a position to do so to support the secretariat of the Convention financially and technically, with a view to supporting special initiatives in observance of the Decade as well as other observance events and activities worldwide;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the status of the implementation of the present resolution.

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[4] ICCD/COP (9)/15.

[5] A/C.2/62/7, annex.